

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action dated on October 17, 2006.

Claim 1 and withdrawn claims 13, 27, 40, and 48 are amended, no claims are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-57 and 104-106 are now pending in this application with claims 1-12 currently pending examination. The amendments to the claims are fully supported by the specification as originally filed. No new matter is introduced. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments above and the remarks that follow.

Withdrawn Claims

The independent withdrawn claims are amended in a manner to follow the amendments to claim 1 that is pending examination. Applicant submits that independent claims 13, 27, 40, and 48 and the claims that depend from these claims are properly linked to claim 1. As demonstrated below, claim 1 is patentable. Thus, with the allowance of claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests the rejoinder and allowance of claims 13-57 and 104-106. *See M.P.E.P. 809 and M.P.E.P. 821.04.*

Claim Objections

Claim 1 was objected to due to an informality. Applicant traverses this objection.

In the Office Action referring to claim 1, it is stated that “the claim contains improper Markush grouping of claims.” Claim recites “one or more of aluminum, silver, or gold.” Applicant submits that according to M.P.E.P. 2173.05(h) use of the term “or” is proper and that M.P.E.P. 2173.05(h) does not state that the examples provided in M.P.E.P. 2173.05(h) are all inclusive. However, Applicant amends claim 1 (and withdrawn independent claims 13, 27, 40, and 48) to further clarify these claims.

Applicant respectfully requests removal of these objections to claim 1, and reconsideration and allowance of claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-12 were allowed. Applicant acknowledges allowance of claims 1-12.

Applicant requests rejoinder of claims 13-57 and 104-106 in accordance with M.P.E.P. 809 and M.P.E.P. 821.04.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 371-2157 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

PAUL A. FARRAR

By his Representatives,

SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.
P.O. Box 2938
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 371-2157

Date 18 December 2006 By David R. Cochran
David R. Cochran
Reg. No. 46,632

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 18 day of December 2006.

LISA ROSARIE
Name

Siva Rosorele
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